



BOROUGH OF WIDNES



# Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for

1957



BOROUGH OF WIDNES  
A N N U A L   R E P O R T  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
1957

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the annual report on the health of Widnes for 1957 and I am happy to report that the health of the Borough compares favourably with that of previous years.

The adjusted birth-rate was 21.7 per 1,000 of the population. In 1956 it was 19.2 and in 1955 18.5. The birth-rate for England and Wales was 16.1.

The adjusted death-rate was the same as for the previous year being 13.3 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 11.5 for England and Wales.

The infant mortality rate showed a further decrease from 29.6 per 1,000 live births for 1956 to 27.7 for the year under review. This figure is below the average for the previous 5 years. There was also a marked reduction in the stillbirth rate which was 25 per 1,000 total births compared with 33 for 1956 and an average of 30 for the previous 5 years.

There was 1 maternal death.

The death rate from cancer of all types per 1,000 of the population was 2.08. This was the same rate as for last year and was slightly lower than the figure for England and Wales. The rate for cancer of the lung and bronchus was .59 per 1,000 of the population compared with .43 per 1,000 of the population for England and Wales. During the past 6 years there has been no material change in the death-rate in Widnes from cancer of the lung and bronchus although there has been a continued annual increase in the rate for England and Wales.

Deaths due to diseases of the circulatory system and the respiratory system were both slightly higher in total than for last year but in both cases were lower than the rate for England and Wales.

There were 14 deaths as a result of accidents of all types compared with 19 deaths during the previous year.

The increase in the incidence of infectious disease, 1,262 cases being notified compared with 615 in 1956, was largely due to the increased incidence of measles. There was a considerable reduction in the notifications of whooping cough, and notifications of pneumonia and food poisoning were also lower. There were no cases of poliomyelitis notified during the year.

The case rate for tuberculosis which has been continuously improving during recent years showed a further reduction during 1957 to .65 per 1,000 of the population, despite the fact that a mass radiography unit was operating in the Borough. The national incidence of the disease for 1957 was .74 per 1,000 of the population.

Four deaths from the disease were recorded compared with 3 for 1956 but the death-rate from tuberculosis remains lower than that for England and Wales as a whole.

The work of the Public Health Department has, due to disorganisation of the technical staff, been somewhat impaired during the year. In 1956 we had lost the services of two experienced inspectors and had been able to appoint



only one newly qualified and somewhat inexperienced inspector as a replacement. In addition, early in the year, Mr. Starkey, Chief Public Health Inspector, became ill and went into hospital in May, returning to duty in December.

Despite frequent advertisements it was not possible to bring the establishment of Public Health Inspectors up to strength and towards the end of the year consideration was being given to the advisability of appointing an assistant Housing Inspector, who would hold a National Certificate in Building, to take on some of the routine work of inspection of houses in connection with slum clearance.

A heavy slum clearance programme, together with the introduction in June of the Rent Act, placed the emphasis more than ever onto housing. In order to keep abreast of its commitments in this direction it was not possible for the department to devote as much time as I would have liked on other work such as smoke abatement and food and drugs. Particularly in view of the Clean Air Act, 1956, it is becoming essential that more time be spent on atmospheric pollution and smoke abatement. The department is fortunate in having three qualified smoke inspectors but to use even one of these on anything approaching full-time in this work would not be possible until the technical staff is brought up to strength.

During the year, inspectors have made 5,160 visits to premises. One thousand, five hundred and forty two nuisances or contraventions of various Acts were discovered and 715 informal and 404 statutory notices were served. Legal proceedings were instituted in 15 instances. The major portion of this work was concerned with the Public Health and Housing Acts, and in the second half of the year with the new Rent Act. There were 611 houses in which defects were remedied and 97 houses were represented for demolition or closure. Three clearance areas were included in this latter figure. During the year 46 houses were demolished and 7 unfit houses closed. One hundred and sixty applications for certificates of disrepair under the Rent Act were received.

Supervision of premises and vehicles under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, was continued, for which purpose 354 inspections were made. One hundred and twenty three samples of milk and other foods were taken for analysis and 115 samples of milk, 14 samples of ice-cream and 116 samples of Chinese hen egg albumen crystals were submitted for bacteriological examination. Two hundred and fifty four licences or certificates of registration were issued in respect of the sale of milk and other foods.

Continual effort was made to reduce air pollution and it is heartening to note that some measure of success has been achieved. Total deposits for the year being the lowest since recordings were first taken in 1947.

Inspections under the Shops and Factories Acts were also maintained.

In conclusion I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Health Committee for their support and encouragement during the year, and also to the officials of the Corporation, in particular to Mr. E.F. Starkey, Chief Public Health Inspector, for their assistance at all times.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

F. W. BUNTING,

Medical Officer of Health.

# GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the Borough in acres	...	...	...	...	6,178
Population at Census, 1951	...	...	...	...	48,785
Population estimated, 1957	...	...	...	...	50,420
Density of Population (i.e., No. of persons per acre)	...				8.2
No. of Inhabited Houses (1951 Census)	...	...	...	...	12,459
No. of Inhabited Houses (end of 1957 according to rate book)	...				14,340
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£249,231
Sum represented by ld. rate	...	...	...	...	£1,750

## EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Number of Births: Males, 609; Females, 544	...	...	...	1,153
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the population - Adjusted	...	...	...	21.7
Number of Deaths: Males, 271; Females, 205	...	...	...	476
Death-rate per 1,000 of the population - Crude	...	...	...	9.5
- Adjusted	...	...	...	13.3
Excess of Births over Deaths	...	...	...	676
Number of Deaths of Infants (under age of one year)	...	...	...	32
Infant Mortality per 1,000 births	...	...	...	27.7
Deaths from Influenza	...	...	...	2
Death-rate from Influenza per 1,000 of the population	...	...	...	0.04
Death-rate from Cancer per 1,000 of the population	...	...	...	2.08
Death-rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	0.06
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	...	...	...	0.85
Number of women dying in consequence of Child Birth -				
From Sepsis	...	...	...	Nil
Other Causes	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	1
Percentage of total Deaths occurring in Public Institutions	...	...	...	43.8



POPULATION-

The population returns since 1861 are given below:-

Year	Population	Inhabited Houses	Average per house
1861	6,893	1,150	5.99
1871	14,359	2,519	5.66
1881	24,918	4,994	5.00
1891	30,011	5,121	5.86
1901	28,580	5,350	5.34
1911	31,544	6,102	5.16
1921	38,879	7,437	5.22
1931	40,619	8,534	4.63
1951	48,785	12,459	3.91
Est. 1957	50,420	14,340	3.51

The Registrar General's estimate of the population for the year 1957 was 50,420. This is an increase of 360 over the estimated population for 1956.

BIRTHS-

				Totals	Males	Females			
Legitimate	...	...	...	1,105	583	522	}	Birth-rate ...	21.7
Illegitimate	...	...	...	48	26	22			
Birth-rate for England and Wales				...	...	...	...	...	16.1

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS-

The percentage of births which were illegitimate during each of the past fifteen years is as follows:-

1943	6.0 per cent	1950	4.5 per cent
1944	5.6 per cent	1951	5.1 per cent
1945	9.8 per cent	1952	4.1 per cent
1946	7.0 per cent	1953	4.2 per cent
1947	4.7 per cent	1954	3.2 per cent
1948	4.5 per cent	1955	3.3 per cent
1949	4.3 per cent	1956	4.0 per cent
1957		4.2 per cent	

## CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1957-

CAUSES OF DEATH	All ages	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65-74 years	75 years and over
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Tuberculosis (Other Forms)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal infection	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasms-									
Stomach	18	-	-	-	-	-	7	8	3
Lung, bronchus	30	-	-	-	-	-	14	12	4
Breast	6	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	1
Uterus	4	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	45	-	-	1	-	3	17	9	15
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Diabetes	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	51	-	-	-	-	2	10	22	17
Coronary disease, Angina	59	-	-	-	-	2	22	23	12
Hypertension with heart disease	17	-	-	-	-	-	3	7	7
Other heart diseases	63	1	-	-	-	1	12	16	33
Other circulatory diseases	23	-	-	-	-	2	4	7	10
Influenza	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Pneumonia	31	4	1	1	-	3	4	9	9
Bronchitis	32	-	2	-	-	-	9	9	12
Other diseases of resp.system	4	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	11	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other diseases	41	15	1	-	-	-	6	5	14
Motor vehicle accidents	4	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1
All other accidents	10	-	-	1	-	3	1	2	3
Suicide	3	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Homicide and War	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total:	476	32	5	4	2	21	124	138	150



DEATHS FROM CANCER IN AGE GROUPS OVER THE PAST TWELVE YEARS AND RATES PER 1,000 OF POPULATION-

Year	Age Groups					Per 1,000 total population	
	1-14	15-44	45-64	65 & over	All Ages	Widnes	England & Wales
1946	1	6	25	34	66	1.47	-
1947	-	7	34	40	81	1.75	1.85
1948	1	6	39	33	79	1.66	1.91
1949	-	7	30	40	77	1.60	1.93
1950	2	6	30	52	90	2.00	1.94
1951	2	13	36	37	88	1.80	1.96
1952	1	11	43	48	103	2.11	1.99
1953	1	9	44	59	113	2.31	1.99
1954	-	8	30	48	86	1.74	2.04
1955	-	7	40	59	106	2.12	2.06
1956	-	8	46	50	104	2.08	2.08
1957	1	4	45	55	105	2.08	2.09

DETAILS OF CANCER DEATHS OVER THE PAST SIX YEARS-

Year	Site	Age Groups					Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	Total All ages	
		1-14	15-44	45-64	65-74	75 +		M	F
1952	Stomach	-	1	2	5	4	0.25	7	5
	Lung bronchus	-	3	17	9	2	0.63	26	5
	Other sites	1	7	24	20	8	1.23	25	35
1953	Stomach	-	1	3	10	5	0.39	10	9
	Lung bronchus	-	4	15	10	1	0.61	28	2
	Other sites	1	4	26	22	11	1.31	34	30
1954	Stomach	-	-	5	7	3	0.30	8	7
	Lung bronchus	-	1	11	9	1	0.44	21	1
	Other sites	-	7	14	15	13	1.00	25	24
1955	Stomach	-	1	6	8	3	0.36	12	6
	Lung bronchus	-	-	15	16	2	0.66	31	2
	Other sites	-	6	19	15	15	1.10	24	31
1956	Stomach	-	-	7	9	4	0.40	9	11
	Lung bronchus	-	2	13	12	4	0.62	27	4
	Other sites	-	6	26	17	4	1.06	23	30
1957	Stomach	-	-	7	8	3	0.36	12	6
	Lung bronchus	-	-	14	12	4	0.59	26	4
	Other sites	1	4	17	24	11	1.13	31	26

DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM-

The following table shows death rates per 1,000 of the population from diseases of the respiratory system which occurred in the Borough, together with corresponding data for England and Wales.

Disease	Widnes	England & Wales
Influenza	0.04	0.16
Pneumonia	0.61	0.56
Bronchitis	0.63	0.60
Other diseases of respiratory system	0.08	0.11
Cancer of lung and bronchus	0.59	0.43
Respiratory Tuberculosis	0.06	0.09



DETAILS OF DEATHS DUE TO ACCIDENTS -

There was a further decrease in deaths due to accidents during the year under review and the total figure was lower than the average of the past ten years. The following tables show:-

(a) CAUSE OF ACCIDENTAL DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS - 1957:

CAUSE	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	15-44 years	45-64 years	65-74 years	75 years and over	All Ages
Road traffic accidents	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	4
Falls	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	4
Works accidents	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Drowning	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Coal gas poisoning	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
Other accidental deaths	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
TOTALS	-	-	2	4	2	2	4	14

(b) PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF ACCIDENTAL DEATHS OVER THE PAST EIGHT YEARS:

Year	All Causes	Road Traffic	Works	Falls
1950	30	10	2	7
1951	13	2	1	5
1952	8	4	-	2
1953	13	3	-	6
1954	19	5	2	8
1955	25	4	3	10
1956	19	6	1	6
1957	14	4	2	4

The following table summarises the vital statistics of the Borough:-

Year	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	No. Regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. Regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. Regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths Regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	Total		Neo-natal	
									No. of deaths Regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths Regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
1957	1153	22.9	477	9.5	29	25	1	0.85	32	28	23	20
1956	1011	20.2	472	9.4	34	33	Nil	Nil	30	30	18	18
1955	970	19.5	501	10.0	26	26	2	2.01	29	30	19	20
1954	904	18.3	478	9.7	36	38	1	1.06	22	24	17	19
1953	961	19.7	442	9.0	27	27	1	1.01	33	34	23	24
1952	982	20.1	511	10.5	25	25	Nil	Nil	33	34	23	23
Ave. 5 years, 1952-56	966	19.6	481	9.7	30	30	0.8	0.82	29	30	20	21

Adjusted Live birth-rate (comparability factor 0.95) - 21.7

Adjusted death-rate (comparability factor 1.41) - 13.3

# VITAL STATISTICS

The following provisional figures based on the Registrar General's Quarterly Returns of birth and death rates, together with case rates for certain infectious diseases for England and Wales are shown together with corresponding data in respect of the Borough of Widnes.

	England & Wales	Borough of Widnes
	Rates per 1,000 population	Rates per 1,000 population
<u>Births:</u>		
Live births	16.1	21.7 (c)
Stillbirths	( 0.37 ( 22.4 (a)	0.57 24.5 (a)
<u>Deaths:</u>		
All causes	11.5	13.3 (c)
Tuberculosis (all forms)	0.11	0.08
Respiratory	0.09	0.06
Non-respiratory	0.01	0.02
Cancer (all forms)	2.09	2.08
Lung and bronchus	0.43	0.59
Other cancer	1.67	1.49
Maternal mortality (total)	0.47 (a)	0.85 (a)
Maternal causes (excluding abortion)	0.39 (a)	0.85 (a)
Due to abortion	0.08 (a)	Nil
Infant mortality	23.0 (b)	27.7 (b)
Neo-natal mortality	16.5 (b)	20.0 (b)
<u>Notifications (Corrected):</u>		
Typhoid Fever	0.00	Nil
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	Nil
Meningococcal Infection	0.02	Nil
Scarlet Fever	0.66	1.27
Whooping Cough	1.89	0.42
Diphtheria	0.00	Nil
Erysipelas	0.08	0.06
Smallpox	0.00	Nil
Measles	14.11	21.59
Pneumonia	0.73	0.84
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.11	Nil
Acute Encephalitis	0.00	Nil
Dysentery	0.64	0.10
Food Poisoning	0.20	0.06
Puerperal Pyrexia	0.26	0.02
Tuberculosis -		
Respiratory	0.65	0.55
Meninges and C.N.S.	0.01	Nil
Other	0.08	0.10

(a) Per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

(b) Per 1,000 related births.

(c) Adjusted rate.



The following statistics are taken from the annual reports of the Medical Officer of Health for the years 1927, 1937, and 1947 and are shown together with comparable data relating to the year under review.

	1957	1947	1937	1927
Estimated population	50,420	46,110	43,140	42,610
Crude birth-rate per 1,000 of population	22.9	27.1	20.0	21.7
Crude death rate per 1,000 of population	9.5	12.1	11.9	12.1
Infant mortality per 1,000 births	29	74.2	92	66
Maternal mortality per 1,000 births	0.85	Nil	3.46	2.78
Deaths from measles	Nil	2	1	5
Deaths from diphtheria	Nil	Nil	2	2
Deaths from whooping cough	Nil	Nil	1	19
Deaths from scarlet fever	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths from respiratory tuberculosis	3	33	30	39
Deaths from tuberculosis (other forms)	1	5	7	7
Death rate per 1,000 of population from cancer	2.08	1.75	1.18	1.15
Deaths under 65 years of age - percentage of total	39	54	60	72

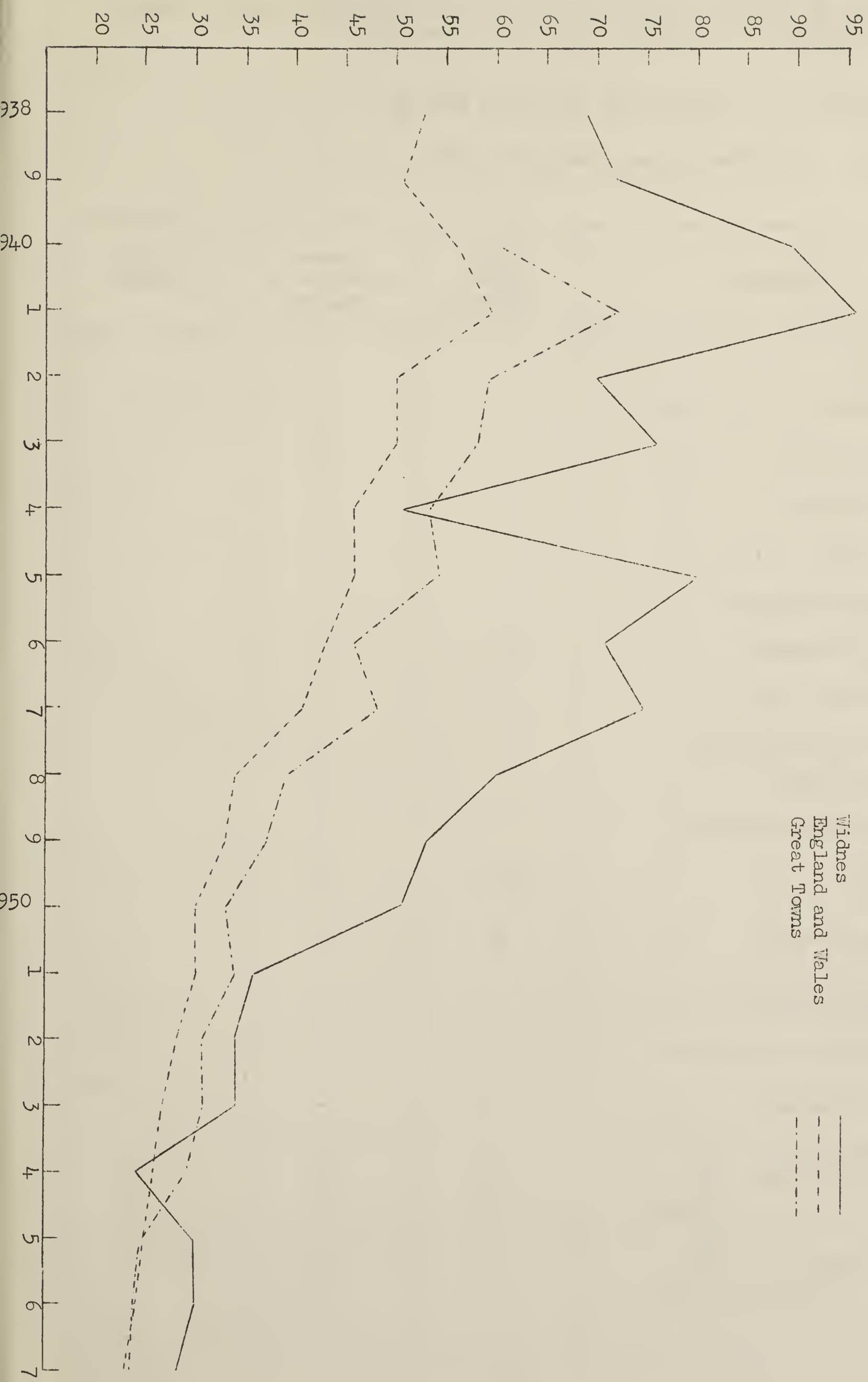
INFANT MORTALITY

The causes of death of infants during 1957 are recorded in the following table:-

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total deaths under 1 yr.
Prematurity	9	1	-	1	11	-	-	-	-	11
Birth Injury	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	3
Congenital Malformations	4	1	2	1	8	1	1	1	-	11
Gastro Enteritis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Other diseases of early infancy	3	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	4
Other diseases	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
TOTALS	17	2	2	2	23	5	2	1	1	32

INFANT MORTALITY  
DEATHS PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS

Widnes  
England and Wales  
Great Towns



LABORATORY FACILITIES -

There were three nose and throat, forty-three faeces and two urine specimens submitted for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory during 1957.

During the season twelve samples of water were taken from the Public Swimming Baths. No adverse results were received.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE -

(i) Notifiable Diseases During the Year:

DISEASES	Total cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria ... ..	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever ... ..	64	19	-
Para-typhoid ... ..	-	-	-
Dysentery ... ..	5	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	1	-	-
Acute Pneumonia ... ..	42	3	1
Erysipelas ... ..	3	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Enteric Fever ... ..	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	1
Measles	1,089	1	-
Whooping Cough ... ..	21	2	-
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	-	-	-
Acute Polioencephalitis	-	-	-
Food Poisoning ... ..	3	-	-
Tuberculosis -			
(a) Pulmonary (M	23	27	3
(F	5	9	-
(Total	28	36	3
(b) Non- (M	3	-	-
(F	2	1	1
(Total	5	1	1



(ii) Analysis of Notifiable Diseases in Age Groups:

C A S E S     N O T I F I E D												
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES		Total cases at all ages	Under 1 year	1-2 years	3-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years & over	Age un- known
Scarlet Fever	...	64	-	3	14	41	5	-	1	-	-	-
Diphtheria	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	...	1,089	43	262	339	417	15	-	3	-	-	10
Whooping Cough	...	21	4	5	7	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	...	42	4	6	1	4	1	3	4	12	4	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-											
Paralytic	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	...	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
Dysentery	...	5	-	3	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	...	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
Respiratory Tuberculosis	-											
M		23	-	-	-	1	2	5	7	7	1	-
F		5	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	-	-	-
Non-Resp. Tuberculosis	-											
M		3	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
F		2	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	...	1,261	51	279	362	472	23	13	20	22	6	13

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM -

There were no cases of ophthalmia neonatorum during the year.

SCARLET FEVER -

Sixty-four cases were notified during the year. The number of cases notified during the preceding five years were: 1952 - 159; 1953 - 134; 1954 - 54; 1955 - 51; 1956 - 56.

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS -

There were no cases of poliomyelitis notified during the year.

DIPHThERIA-

The following table gives the incidence of this disease during the past 12 years:-

Year	No. of Cases	No. of Deaths	Year	No. of Cases	No. of Deaths
1946	19	-	1952	-	-
1947	4	-	1953	1	-
1948	-	-	1954	-	-
1949	2	-	1955	-	-
1950	-	-	1956	1	-
1951	-	-	1957	-	-

There were no cases of diphtheria notified during the year and only four cases have been notified during the past ten years. Diphtheria is now becoming a rare disease, but it is a deadly one. That this is so is shown by a comparison of national figures for fatal cases in proportion to notifications. The percentage of deaths to notifications in 1946 was 3.9 and in 1956 it was 15.6.

Immunisation is responsible for the great reduction in the incidence of diphtheria and it is our only sure safeguard against future outbreaks.

TUBERCULOSIS-

The number of cases of tuberculosis and of all deaths from the disease during 1957 will be found in the following table:-

Age Periods (Years)	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 24	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	4	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
35 - 44	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64	5	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
65 upwards	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	23	5	3	2	3	-	-	1
	28		5		3		1	



The following table gives the incidence of tuberculosis during the past thirty years:-

Annual Average	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	
	Case Rate per 1,000 population	Death Rate per 1,000 population	Case Rate per 1,000 population	Death Rate per 1,000 population
1927 - 1931	1.50	.93	1.0	.18
1932 - 1936	1.02	.70	.78	.22
1937 - 1941	.86	.66	.55	.15
1942 - 1946	.98	.64	.52	.10
1947 - 1951	1.17	.50	.35	.08
1952 - 1956	.98	.17	.13	.02
1957	.55	.06	.10	.02

There were 33 cases of tuberculosis notified during the year of which 5 were non-respiratory. This figure shows a continuation of the annual decrease in the rate of notified cases and although the decrease over the figures for the previous year is slight it is significant in view of the fact that a Mass Radiography Unit operated in the Borough during the year. The case rate per 1,000 of the Borough population was 0.65 compared with 0.74 for England and Wales.

It is highly satisfactory that there should be a continual decrease in the incidence of tuberculosis and a considerable decrease over the past 10 years in deaths from the disease. Nevertheless, apart from relapses, which still occur, there remains what is probably the most difficult part of the problem to be overcome, if the incidence is to be further considerably reduced. It is concerned with that section of the community who refuse to face up to the possibility of tuberculosis and will not avail themselves of the opportunities for examination and X-ray. This is a policy which is dangerous for the individual and unfair to his family and the community in general.

The following table shows the number of cases which have been reported as having recovered from the disease over the past six years:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Other Forms</u>
1952	2	20
1953	7	22
1954	20	22
1955	16	8
1956	14	7
1957	16	2

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY-

The Widnes Survey was carried out during the period 22nd July to 28th November, 1957, and I am indebted to Dr. A. R. Corrado, Medical Director of the Unit, for the following information relative thereto:-



TOTAL NUMBER OF MINIATURES	TOTAL		GRAND TOTAL
	Male	Female	
Total number of persons X-rayed	7,791	3,405	11,196
Tuberculosis, presumed healed	72	13	85
Tuberculosis, occasional supervision needed	8	-	8
Tuberculosis, immediate treatment	8	2	10
Suspect tuberculosis not yet confirmed	1	-	1
Tuberculosis, close clinical supervision needed	7	-	7
Cases known to be tuberculosis by Chest Clinic before this examination	7	1	8
Bronchiectasis	12	1	13
Pneumoconiosis	2	-	2
Neoplasm	1	-	1
Cardiac abnormalities	26	11	37

# SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

A record of the work of the Public Health Department is as follows:-

Defects or Nuisances:	No. discovered	...	...	...	...	1,542
	No. abated	...	...	...	...	1,505
	No. being dealt with	...	...	...	...	37
No. of Notices served:	Informal	...	...	...	...	715
	Statutory	...	...	...	...	404
No. of Legal Proceedings taken		...	...	...	...	15
No. of Premises visited	...	...	...	...	...	2,201
No. of visits made	...	...	...	...	...	5,160

Premises kept under observation	Number of Premises	Number of Inspections
Factories	192	39
Food Premises	502	416
Bakehouses	24	22
Premises from which milk is sold	157	172
Shops selling ice-cream	134	55
Common Lodging Houses	5	60
Tents and Caravans	8	8
Visits to premises where cases of infectious disease have occurred	106	114
No. of premises disinfected after cases of infectious disease	69	-
Schools - Provided	11	14
Unprovided	9	18

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION-

There are twenty-two privy middens but they are situated in the rural parts of the Borough and cannot be converted owing to the absence of adequate sewers. There are seven waste closets in existence and it is calculated that 14,318 houses are provided with fresh water closets.

## REFUSE REMOVAL-

This work is carried out entirely by the Highways Department, for which purpose covered vehicles are used. There are twenty-two ashpits attached to privies; the remaining houses in the Borough are provided with portable bins.

## DISINFESTATION-

Thirty-nine houses belonging to the Corporation and eighty-eight private dwellings or other premises were treated because of verminous infestation. In addition householders are encouraged to carry out disinfestation and are supplied with suitable insecticides.

## RODENT CONTROL-

Two whole-time rodent operatives were employed by the Local Authority and carried out their work to the formula of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. A summary of the work carried out during the period is appended:-

Premises treated during the Year	For Mice	For Rats
Dwellinghouses	102	181
Shops	15	9
Factories	20	27
Hotels	-	4
Schools	19	7
Clubs	3	3
Cafes	1	1
Churches	1	1
Local Authority Premises	7	4
Building Sites	-	1
Brooks and Ditches	-	1
Tips	-	1
Areas	-	18
Agricultural Premises	-	5
Garages	-	2

Main sewer treatments are carried out half-yearly but operations are not confined to these particular periods if the presence of rats in any area is found to be as a result of defective drains, etc.



HOUSING ACTS, 1936-1957

The table set out below shows details of property represented for demolition or closure during 1957:-

PROPERTY	Number of houses dealt with		
	Individual houses		Clearance Areas
	Closure	Demolition	Demolition
3, Houghton Street		1	
79, Lugsdale Road	1		
Blackburne Arms, Ditton		1	
54-58, Nelson Street	}		8
9-17, Hutchinson Street			
66, Heath Road			
Bryn Felin, Mill Brow	1		
106, St. Michaels Road	1	1	
2-44, Margaret Street	}		34
5-27, Elizabeth Street			
6, Brown Street	1		
23, Harrison Street	1		
27, Harrison Street	1		
34, Wright Street	1		
6, Fisher Street	1		
2-74, Oxford Street	}		44
57-67, Oxford Street			
61a, Lugsdale Road			
TOTAL:	8	3	86

It will be observed that 86 houses in 3 clearance areas, and 3 individual unfit houses were represented for demolition, and 8 individual unfit houses were represented for closure during 1957. During this period 46 houses were demolished and 7 houses were closed.

The original intention of the Council in dealing with the problem of slum clearance was to allocate 40% of new house construction in 1957 and 50% thereafter to re-housing displaced families. During the year, however, it was decided to secure the maximum clearance of unfit houses within the following 12 months.

Estimated new house construction for the year 1958/59, other than one bed-roomed bungalows, was given as 180. Of these, 40% were earmarked for existing representations and the remainder for future slum clearance.

In order to phase slum clearance to these latest re-housing proposals it was necessary, during the last quarter of the year, to increase the rate of representations. By the end of the year, despite a shortage of qualified staff, good progress had been made towards this purpose in the accumulation of evidence and in the representation of areas and individual unfit houses.

RENT ACT, 1957

This Act came into effect on the 6th June and the following table shows details of work carried out by the department to the end of 1957:-

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair received	-	160
Applications for Certificates of Disrepair accepted	-	156
Undertakings accepted (on Form K)	-	63
Certificates of Disrepair issued	-	32
Number of Inspections under Act	-	224

The response both by landlord and tenant was immediate but no conclusions as to its effects can be drawn from the comparatively short period of its operation during the year under review.

## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT

From the reports of observations made during the year, the emissions of smoke and fumes from factories show a marked reduction in density. All incidents of excessive smoke were investigated and managements interviewed. Escapes of gases from chemical processes were recorded and reported to H.M. Inspector of Alkali Works with whom the department maintains a close co-operation.

The 6 stations within the Borough for the measurement of pollution have continued in operation throughout the year. From the analyst's report on these stations it is estimated that the average deposit for the whole of the Borough for 1957 was 205.7 tons per square mile. This is a decrease of 63.22 on the figure for 1956 when 268.92 tons per square mile was recorded.

Sulphur in the atmosphere is recorded by the lead peroxide method as milligrams of sulphur trioxide absorbed per day on 100 sq. cm. of exposed surface treated with lead peroxide. The daily average for 1957 was 2.21 milligrams. This is a decrease of 0.03 on the figure for 1956 which was 2.24 milligrams.

### CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

#### (a) Smoke Control Areas

On the 20th December, 1956, the provisions enabling local authorities to create domestic smoke control areas, became operative. There is no doubt that domestic smoke is the source of a large part of the general pollution of the air that takes place in urban areas such as Widnes.

In 1954 I reported on the suitability of Ditton Neighbourhood Unit as a voluntary smoke control area, to be achieved by tenancy agreement. The reasons for selecting this area were that it lies to the westward of the town from which the prevailing wind blows, and that the great majority of the houses are provided with grates capable of burning smokeless fuel.

Since then the number of houses in the Unit has grown considerably, and the need to bring into being a smoke control area is correspondingly greater. During 1957 I reported again on the desirability of creating a domestic smoke control area. This was, however, during a period when staff shortage was acute, and the main concentration of effort was on slum clearance. Nevertheless, the continuing residential development on the western side of the town makes this a problem that should be tackled at the earliest opportunity.

#### (b) Industrial Smoke Abatement

The many problems associated with the diversity and nature of the industrial sources of air pollution in the Borough have continued. With regard to smoke pollution arising from steam raising only many industrial undertakings are in the process of improving their plant and firing methods. These efforts would appear to be reflected in the reduced deposits as recorded by the standard deposit gauges during 1957, and quoted above. It will be noted from the graph on page 22 that average total deposits for 1957 were in fact the lowest since recordings were first taken in 1947.



FIG. 1  
RAINFALL  
(Inches)



FIG. 2  
DEPOSITS  
(Tons per square mile)

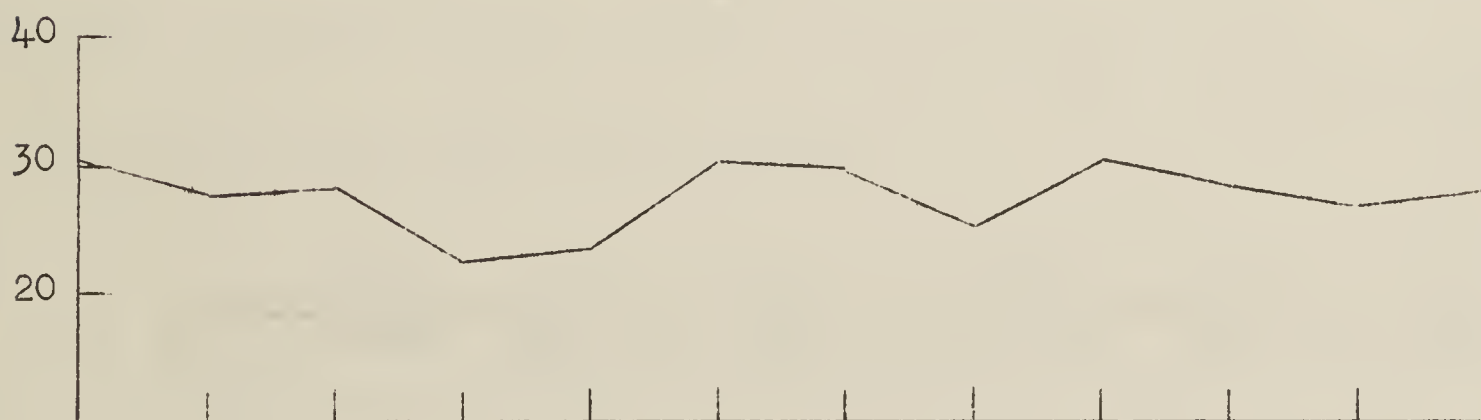
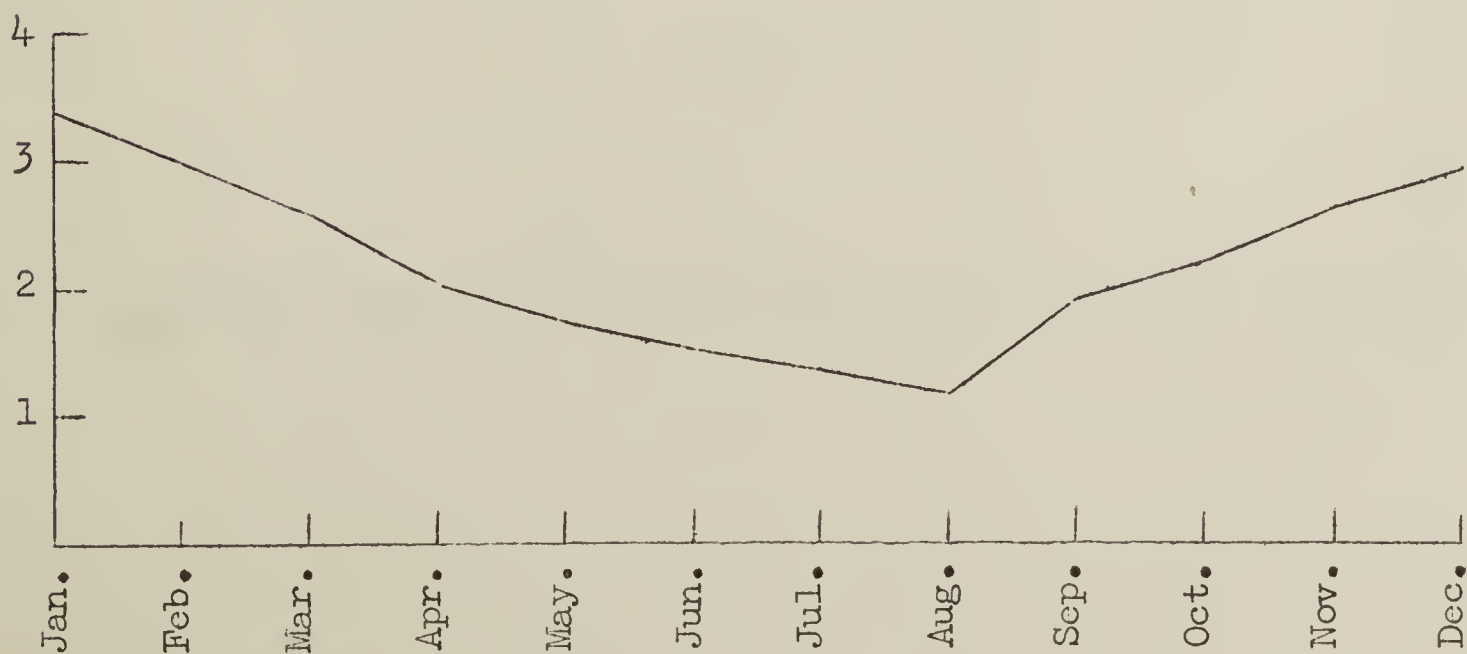


FIG. 3  
ESTIMATION OF SULPHUR BY LEAD  
PEROXIDE METHOD  
(Mg. of  $\text{SO}_3$  per day collected  
by 100 sq. cm. of batch A  $\text{PbO}_2$ )

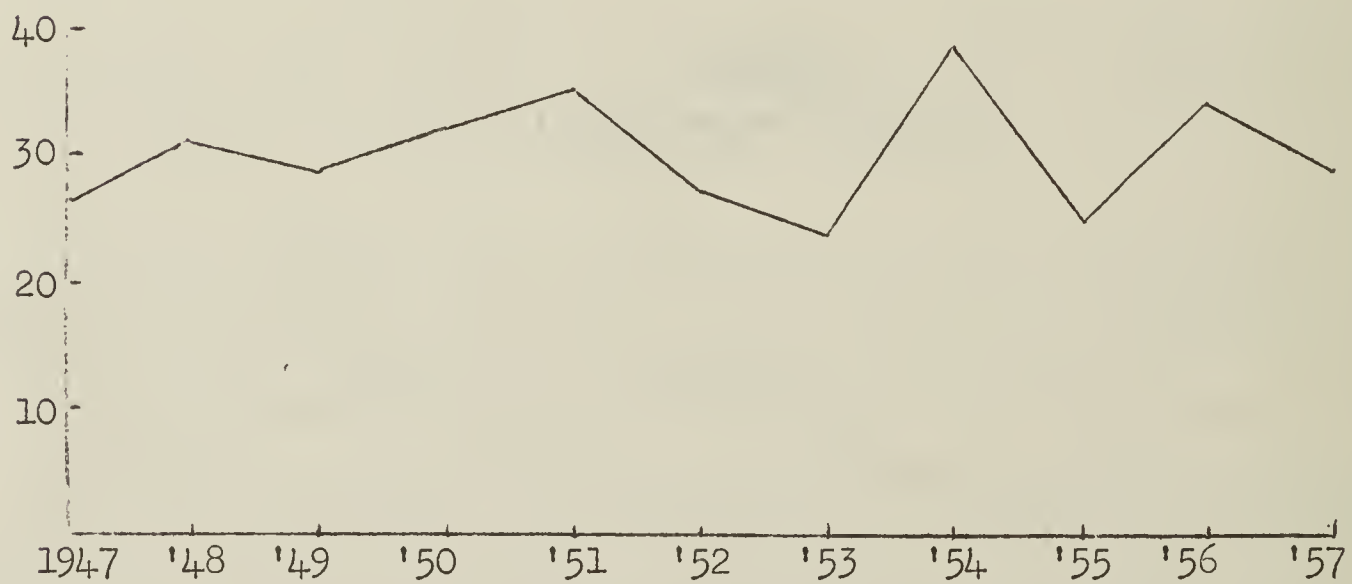




TOTAL DEPOSITS  
(Tons per square mile)

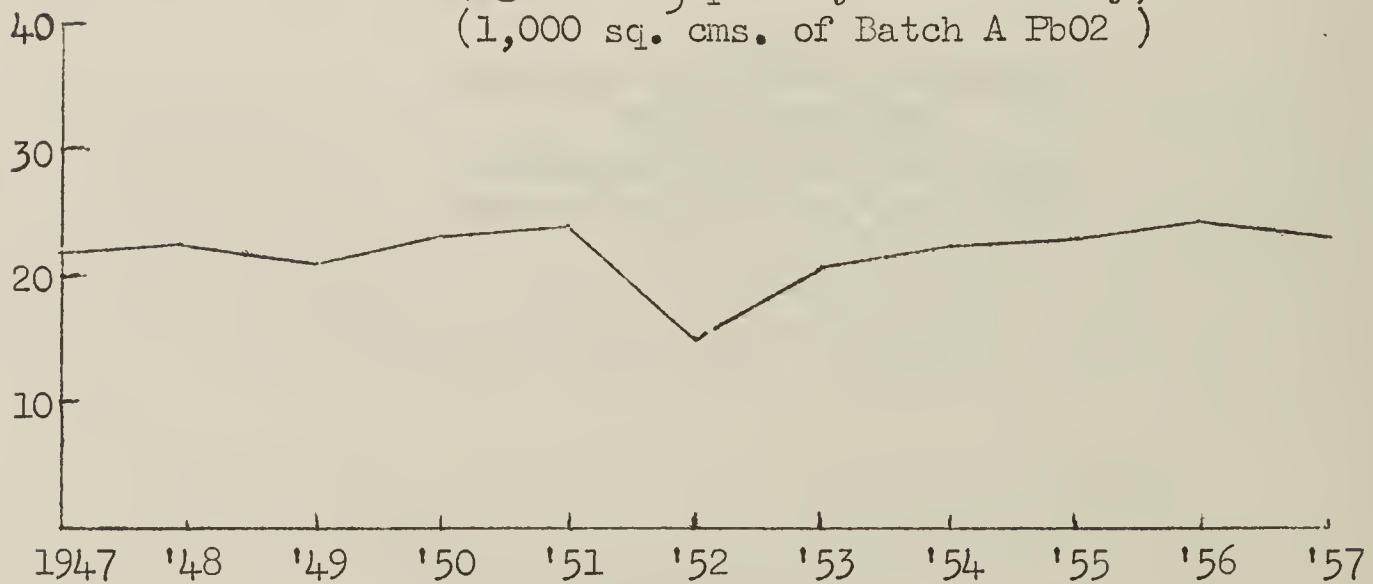


TOTAL RAINFALL  
(Inches)



ESTIMATION OF SULPHUR BY LEAD  
PEROXIDE METHOD

(Mg. of  $\text{SO}_3$  per day collected by)  
(1,000 sq. cms. of Batch A  $\text{PbO}_2$ )



MEASUREMENT OF DEPOSITED MATTER WITH THE DEPOSIT GAUGE-

The amount of total solids in tons per square mile, and the average rainfall during 1957 were as follows:-

Month	Health Centre	Liver- pool Road	Crow Wood Hosp.	Hale- bank	Farn- worth	Shell Green Farm	Average Rainfall (Inches)
January	29.99	13.54	19.67	11.81	15.53	35.89	1.61
February	29.03	9.17	16.80	13.33	10.78	25.53	1.79
March	29.36	12.95	15.65	22.93	11.01	18.95	2.46
April	19.27	9.44	11.31	10.66	7.66	17.0	0.55
May	26.91	9.13	9.93	13.40	8.52	12.04	1.48
June	25.14	11.97	23.74	23.32	16.25	22.63	1.39
July	26.61	16.68	19.98	18.15	13.82	22.32	3.78
August	18.54	12.41	14.48	17.51	10.30	17.12	3.61
September	28.83	18.17	21.88	18.04	14.51	21.26	5.43
October	28.50	11.47	20.30	11.58	11.47	26.92	2.06
November	38.28	12.54	11.35	13.10	9.41	18.93	1.39
December	28.10	14.11	18.04	17.07	11.77	20.79	2.81
Monthly Average	27.38	12.63	16.93	15.74	11.75	21.78	2.36

MEASUREMENT OF SULPHUR DIOXIDE WITH THE LEAD PEROXIDE APPARATUS-

The measurement in milligrams of SO<sub>3</sub> per day per 100 square centimetres of lead peroxide during 1957 was as follows:-

Month	Health Centre	Liver- pool Road	Crow Wood Hosp.	Hale- bank	Farn- worth	Shell Green Farm
January	5.18	3.02	3.71	1.57	2.65	3.94
February	4.56	2.76	3.48	1.87	2.21	3.20
March	4.05	2.86	2.42	1.67	2.15	2.46
April	3.82	1.73	1.85	1.71	1.57	1.83
May	2.74	1.81	1.45	1.65	1.22	1.51
June	2.64	1.25	1.37	1.66	0.84	1.49
July	2.13	1.25	1.25	1.40	0.79	1.48
August	1.81	1.11	1.13	1.13	0.73	1.34
September	1.61	2.83	2.08	1.53	1.15	2.17
October	3.24	1.58	2.82	1.13	1.62	2.96
November	3.50	2.41	2.99	2.35	2.26	2.31
December	4.47	2.75	2.68	2.14	2.21	3.34
Monthly Average	3.31	2.28	2.25	1.68	1.62	2.34



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

### MILK SUPPLY-

Since January, 1954, Widnes has formed part of a Specified Area under the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) No. 3 Order, 1953. This means that all dealers who retail milk in the Borough must sell their milk under special designation.

The number of milk dealers other than cow-keepers on the register at the end of the year was 147. There were 153 dealers licensed for the distribution of sterilised milk, 47 for the distribution of pasteurised milk and 30 for the distribution of tuberculin tested milk. One Pasteuriser's Licence and one Supplementary Pasteuriser's Licence were also issued.

One hundred and ten samples of pasteurised milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination under the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests. Four of these samples were reported to be unsatisfactory under the Methylene Blue test. Five samples of sterilised milk taken for turbidity test were found to be satisfactory.

During the year 73 samples of milk and one sample of cream were taken and submitted to the Liverpool City Analyst. These samples were, with the exception of 2 informal and 2 legal samples, reported to be genuine. The unsatisfactory samples were reported to be of abnormal composition, being slightly below standard in solids other than milk fat.

### ICE-CREAM-

During the year the sale of ice-cream was carried on from 131 premises which were found, upon inspection, to be maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Fourteen samples were taken and submitted for examination under the Methylene Blue test by the Public Health Laboratory Service and were classified as follows:-

Grade 1	-	7 samples	Grade 3	-	1 sample
Grade 2	-	Nil	Grade 4	-	6 samples

These samples were taken mainly from street trading vehicles. Upon inspection some of these vehicles were found to have inadequate washing facilities and warnings were issued to owners and salesmen. In one case it was necessary to prosecute and the defendant was found guilty on charges of failure to provide soap, etc. for personal cleanliness and failure to provide soap, etc. for equipment.

One sample of ice-cream was taken for analysis and reported to be genuine.

### STORAGE, PREPARATION, AND SALE OF FOOD-

During the year Public Health Inspectors made 354 inspections of premises and street trading and food delivery vehicles. In addition to verbal requests it was necessary to serve notices in 28 instances. These were all duly complied with.

Forty-nine samples of food, other than milk, were taken for analysis and 2,323 lb. of miscellaneous foodstuffs were condemned during the year. The carcasses of five pigs were examined under the meat regulations and passed fit for human consumption.



The sterilisation of Chinese Hen Egg Albumen Crystals, referred to in my last annual report, was continued by this firm and sampling was carried out by members of my department. One hundred and sixteen samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory and in all cases negative reports were received.

#### UNSOUND FOOD

The following unwholesome foodstuffs were condemned during the year:-

Food	Cwts.	Lbs.	Ozs.	Pints
Potatoes	6	-	-	447 $\frac{3}{4}$
Evaporated Milk				
Tinned Fruit		61	12	
Tinned Vegetables		17	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Tinned Tomatoes		25	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Fresh Tomatoes		12	8	
Soup		24	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Tinned Crab		-	10	
Stewed Steak		6	-	
Corned Beef		142	15	
Luncheon Meat		45	13	
Cheese		-	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Cooked Ham		396	6	
Cream		1	2	
Tongue		32	-	
Baked Beans		3	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Jam, etc.		19	-	
Tinned Salmon		31	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Tinned Pork		156	-	
Beef		258	-	
Garden Peas		7	-	
Dried Peas		2	-	
Fish		20	4	
Rice		-	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Tinned Chicken		1	12	
Chickens		40	12	
Coffee		-	13	
Irish Stew		-	8	
Fish Paste		1	-	
Meat Paste		-	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Turkey		16	6	
Cheese and Onion Spread		-	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	

# FOOD SAMPLING

The following statement shows the number of samples taken under the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, and the results of the analysis:-

Sample of	No. of samples	Genuine	Not Genuine	Remarks
Milk	72	68	4	Milk of abnormal composition.
Cream	1	1	-	
Pork Sausage	17	8	9	6 slightly deficient in meat. 3 contained an excessive amount of fat.
Ice-cream	1	1	-	
Margarine	2	2	-	
Margarine (cont.butter)	1	1	-	
Fruit Sauce	1	1	-	Contained a slight excess of lead.
Marzipan Substitute	2	-	2	Deficient in total nut.
Cake Mixture	2	2	-	
Fish Paste	1	1	-	
Meat Paste	1	1	-	
Cheese Spread	1	1	-	
Chicken Spread	1	1	-	
Fish Cakes	1	1	-	
Pork Savouries	1	1	-	
Instant Icing	1	1	-	
Luncheon Meat	1	1	-	
Dressed Crab	2	2	-	
Aspirin	1	1	-	
Beecham's Powders	1	1	-	
Indigestion Tablets	1	1	-	
Peanut Butter	1	1	-	
Beef Sausage	1	1	-	
Desiccated Coconut	1	1	-	
Vanilla Essence	1	1	-	
Corned Beef	1	1	-	
Welsh Rarebit	1	1	-	
Ground Ginger	1	1	-	
Fruit Pudding	1	1	-	

# FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

## 1. INSPECTIONS-

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	33	12	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	154	46	7	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	5	5	-	-
TOTAL	192	63	7	-

## 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND-

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	-	4	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	7	7	-	5	-







